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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,981	09/25/2003	Phuc Ky Do	RPS920030089US1	8869
47052 7590 06/07/2007 SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP PO BOX 51418 PALO ALTO, CA 94303			EXAMINER PARK, ILWOO	
			ART UNIT 2182	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/07/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/671,981	Applicant(s) DO ET AL.	
	Examiner Ilwoo Park	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 2/5/2007, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:


KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Kim N. Huynh

6/5/07

2. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2182

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pleso [US 6,009,480].

As to claim 1, Pleso teaches a method for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel [e.g., I/O cards 32 in fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15; col. 8, lines 1-4], the method comprising:

providing information [e.g., "I/O card driver" or "URL specifying the location of the device driver" in col. 13, lines 25-35; "communication type field 170, device ID field, driver field 176" in fig. 5B] about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel to a memory ["flash memory of the I/O card 32" in col. 8, lines 37-41] within the I/O connector panel;

examining [e.g., 'accessing the URL location on the Internet' in col. 13, lines 25-35] the information in the memory; and

downloading [col. 5, lines 6-15; col. 13, lines 25-35] at least one driver to a system ["computer system" in col. 4, lines 26-32; "host system 54" in col. 8, lines 37-41] coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information.

5. As to claims 2, 6, and 11, Pleso teaches the memory comprises an EEROM ["flash memory of the I/O card 32" in col. 8, lines 37-41].

6. As to claim 3, Pleso teaches the downloading step is provided by software that is independent of the type of I/O connector panel [col. 8, lines 56-67].

7. As to claims 4 and 7, Pleso teaches the system includes a core PC function block [col. 9, lines 52-59].

8. As to claim 5, Pleso teaches an I/O connector panel [e.g., I/O cards 32 in fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15; col. 8, lines 1-4] comprising:

- a plurality of I/O connectors [fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15]; and
- a memory ["flash memory of the I/O card 32" in col. 8, lines 37-41 containing information [e.g., "driver" or "URL specifying the location of the device driver" in col. 13, lines 25-35; "communication type field 170, device ID field" in fig. 5B] about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [e.g., 'accessing the URL location on the Internet' in col. 13, lines 25-35], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15; col. 13, lines 25-35] to a system ["computer system" in col. 4, lines 26-32; "host system 54" in col. 8, lines 37-41] coupled to the I/O connector panel.

9. As to claims 8 and 12, Pleso teaches connector logic coupled to the memory for I/O distribution [col. 9, lines 59-65].

10. As to claims 9, 13, and 15, Wang et al teach the memory contains attributes of the I/O connector panel and attributes of each connector installed on the connector panel ["communication type field 170, device ID field, driver field 176" in fig. 5B].

11. As to claim 10, Wang et al teach a processing system comprising:

- a core PC function [col. 9, lines 52-59]; and
- at least one I/O connector panel [e.g., I/O cards 32 in fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15; col. 8, lines 1-4] coupled to the core PC function, the at least one I/O connector panel comprising: a plurality of I/O connectors [fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15] and a memory ["flash memory of the I/O card 32" in col. 8, lines 37-41 containing information [e.g., "driver" or

"URL specifying the location of the device driver" in col. 13, lines 25-35; "communication type field 170, device ID field" in fig. 5B] about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [e.g., 'accessing the URL location on the Internet' in col. 13, lines 25-35], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15; col. 13, lines 25-35] to a system ["computer system" in col. 4, lines 26-32; "host system 54" in col. 8, lines 37-41] coupled to the I/O connector panel.

12. As to claim 14, Wang et al teach a processing system comprising:

a core PC function [col. 9, lines 52-59]; and

a plurality of I/O connector panels [e.g., I/O cards 32 in fig. 1; col. 5, lines 1-15; col. 8, lines 1-4] coupled to the core PC function, each of the plurality of I/O connector panels comprising

a plurality of I/O connectors [col. 5, lines 1-15], a memory ["flash memory of the I/O card 32" in col. 8, lines 37-41 containing information [e.g., "driver" or "URL specifying the location of the device driver" in col. 13, lines 25-35; "communication type field 170, device ID field" in fig. 5B] about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel, wherein, when the memory is examined [e.g., 'accessing the URL location on the Internet' in col. 13, lines 25-35], at least one driver can be downloaded [col. 5, lines 6-15; col. 13, lines 25-35] to a system ["computer system" in col. 4, lines 26-32; "host system 54" in col. 8, lines 37-41] coupled to the I/O connector panel, and connector logic [col. 9, lines 59-65] coupled to the memory for I/O distribution.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ilwoo Park whose telephone number is (571) 272-4155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ILWOO PARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Ilwoo Park

June 5, 2007